

November 2013



The Bay Leaf

California Native Plant Society • East Bay Chapter
Alameda & Contra Costa Counties

www.ebcnps.org

www.groups.google.com/group/ebcnps

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Oaks Among Us

Speaker: Katherine Jones

Wednesday, November 20, 7:30 pm

Location: Garden Room, Orinda Public Library (directions below)

California is home to 10 native tree oaks, 12 native shrub oaks, and many hybrids. Remnant oaks of great age reside in California cities along with newly planted native and non-native oak species. Katherine's presentation will discuss ways of identifying California oaks—form, foliage, acorns, and bark—with an emphasis on oaks in urban settings.

Katherine Jones is a retired University of California Cooperative Extension Horticulture Program Representative from San Mateo and San Francisco counties. She is a co-author with Laurence Costello and Bruce Hagen of *Oaks in the Urban Landscape: Selection, Care and Preservation*. Currently she is the Database Manager of the California Tree Failure Report Program.



Coast live oak, black oak, and valley oak in a Sunnyvale, CA, park
Photographer: J. Kehoe, used by permission.

East Bay CNPS membership meetings are free of charge and open to everyone. This month's meeting takes place in the Garden Room of the Orinda Public Library at 24 Orinda Way (in Orinda Village). The Garden Room is on the second floor of the building, accessible by stairs or an elevator. The room opens at 7 pm; the meeting begins at 7:30 pm. Call 510-496-6016 or email rosacalifornica2@earthlink.net if you have questions.

Directions to Orinda Public Library at 24 Orinda Way:

From the west, take Hwy 24 to the Orinda/Moraga exit. At the end of the off ramp, turn left on Camino Pablo (toward Orinda Village), right on Santa Maria Way (the signal after the BART station and freeway entrance), and left on Orinda Way.

From the east, take Hwy 24 to the Orinda exit. Follow the ramp to Orinda Village. Turn right on Santa Maria way (the first signal) and left on Orinda Way.

Once on Orinda Way, go 1 short block to the parking lot on the southeast side of the two-story building on your right. There is additional free parking beneath the building as well as on the street.

From BART (4 blocks): Exit the Orinda station, turn right and cross a pedestrian bridge, then cross a second pedestrian bridge on the left. Go 1 short block on the sidewalk to the third pedestrian bridge. Go 2 blocks on Orinda Way to the Orinda Library.

Please note: There will be no meeting in December (happy holidays!)

2014 CONSERVATION ANALYST APPEAL IS UNDERWAY!

2014 Conservation Analyst Appeal Is Over Halfway to the Goal! \$13,600 is needed to meet our goal of \$40,000.

The Conservation Analyst Fund supports the East Bay Chapter's half-time Conservation Analyst, Mack Casterman. Along with the Conservation Committee, Mack is working on many fronts to conserve high value native plant habitats in our two counties. Please contribute as generously as you

can. Donations may be made using PayPal on the East Bay Chapter website or send a check to the Chapter's address (P.O. Box 5597, Elmwood Station, Berkeley, CA 94705). Please write "Conservation Analyst Fund" in the memo. All contributions are tax deductible.

We would like to thank the following generous donors for their contributions to the 2014 Conservation Analyst Fund.

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Karen Wetherell
Shirley White
Susan Wickham
Joe and Doris Willingham
Elaine Worthington-Jackson
Robert Zorzynski

CNPS STATE OFFICE HIRES HORTICULTURE DIRECTOR

The CNPS State Office announced that Susan Krywicki has been hired as the fulltime staff Horticulture Program Director (see http://cnps.org/cnps/press/20130924_cnps_hort_director.pdf for the official announcement). Susan comes from the San Diego chapter, where she helped to grow that chapter's horticulture program. In San Diego, she also worked with other groups (such as Surfrider Foundation, San Diego

County Water Authority, and Port of San Diego) promoting California native plant horticulture. Her new duties will include the promotion of native plant horticulture in general, and assistance to chapters in their horticultural efforts, both logistics and marketing. Please welcome Susan and send any suggestions or ideas to skrzywicki@cnps.org.

ELECTIONS FOR THE CHAPTER BOARD

The Chapter Board is elected once a year. The five elected positions are President, Vice President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, and Corresponding Secretary. These elected members appoint additional board members at the first board meeting in January. The election is in December. The December *Bay Leaf* will be printed and mailed to members with the ballot inserted. Members who have asked for the *Bay Leaf* only in electronic form will receive just the ballot in the mail.

All current elected board members except Robert Sorenson, the Corresponding Secretary, have agreed to run again and

will likely be nominated by the Nominations Committee. Any member interested in becoming Corresponding Secretary should contact the chapter president, Lesley Hunt (ldhunt@astound.net). Any member may be nominated for any board position by submitting a petition with five signatures nominating a member along with confirmation that that member is willing to serve. Such nominations can be sent to the president (ldhunt@astound.net) who will forward it to the Nominations Committee. The deadline for such nominations is November 18, 2013.

FIELD TRIPS

Friday, November 29, 9:30 am, Mt. Olympia at Mt. Diablo State Park

Meet Janet Gawthrop at the end of Rialto to scope out the east and north sides of the mountain. All are welcome, but especially those who have taken this route in February with Gregg Weber, so that we can compare landmarks and changes from the September fire. If you can, bring a camera, phone, or other gear to record the route and compare it with the scene next February. This will be a strenuous walk with a 2300-foot elevation gain outward, with the same downhill going back. The round trip distance is about six miles, so bring water, lunch and be ready for a trip of 6-7 hours. We will go out in light rain, but heavy rain will postpone the trip until Saturday November 30 at 9:30.

Directions: Take 24 east or 680 to exit at Ignacio Valley Road. Continue east on Ignacio Valley Road out of Walnut Creek into Clayton, where you will reach the intersection of Ignacio Valley and Clayton Road. Turn right onto Clayton Road, and follow Clayton Road past the first intersection with Marsh Creek Road; in about a mile it becomes Marsh Creek Road.

Continue straight on Marsh Creek Road and then turn right onto Regency Drive. Go three blocks on Regency Drive, turn left onto Rialto Drive and follow it to the trailhead at the end. Regency Drive also ends at a trailhead, but that is for a different trail—be sure to turn left onto Rialto. Meet the group at the end of Rialto.

Other Activities

Support your friendly neighborhood federal wildlife refuge.

Sunday, November 17, 10 am-2pm

Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge will have its fall plant sale at the volunteer-run native plant nursery, located near the visitor center complex at 2 Marshlands Road in Fremont. To get there, exit 84 at Paseo Padre Parkway (last East Bay exit before Dumbarton Bridge toll booths). Turn left onto Paseo Padre Parkway, and go straight to its intersection with Marshlands Road. Turn right onto Marshlands Road to go into the refuge.

RESTORATION PROJECTS

Saturday, November 2, 9 am, Redwood Regional Park. Meet at Wayside parking lot (Redwood Road Gate): take Redwood Road off Highway 13 and go over the hill. The park entrance is on the left a couple of miles into the valley.

Tuesday, November 5, 10 am-noon and Saturday, November 16, 10 am-noon
Garber Park habitat restoration workdays for November

Please join us in November as we continue to remove invasive weeds (Himalayan blackberry, Cape ivy, veldt grass (*Ehrharta erecta*) from our restoration sites and along the Loop Trail. We will also focus on our big Algerian ivy pull along the Sylvan Path from Fireplace Plaza to Claremont Avenue in preparation for winter planting season in December and January. Meet at the Evergreen Lane entrance to Garber Park.

Directions: From Ashby take Alvarado Road to Slater Lane, turn right onto Evergreen Lane. The entrance is at the end of the street. For a google map and directions go to www.garberparkstewards.org, or contact Shelagh garberparkstewards@gmail.com.

Saturday, November 2, 10:00 am, Point Isabel (Eastshore State Park). Meet at the end of Rydin Road just off the I-580 next to Hoffman Marsh. Contact e-mail: kyotousa@sbcglobal.net; cell: 510-684-6484.

Saturday, November 9, 9:30 am, Huckleberry Regional Park. Meet at the main parking lot, just to the right of Skyline, north of the intersection with Snake Road.

Sunday, November 17, 9:00 am, Sibley Regional Park. Meet at Oakland-side parking lot off Skyline, about 1/4 mile north of the Huckleberry parking lot.

NATIVE HERE REPORT

Greetings EBCNPS,

Thank you all for making this year's Plant Fair a big success. The volunteers were wonderful and I was impressed with the enthusiasm and kind demeanor of our customers. Our sales revenues are up from those of the last few years, and I think the plants will be happy to have space to grow and thrive in people's backyards.

Thank you to everyone who has given constructive feedback regarding the Plant Fair and nursery operations. Steve Toby has invited everyone who volunteered with the plant fair to a meeting at 1 pm on Saturday November 2nd. Please come to the meeting or email Steve or myself with anything further. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to building what I see as the currently well-honed plant fair.

We sold a lot of plants, but never fear. There are more. These green things are a persistent bunch and our volunteers have

recovered from the plant fair and are hard at work on sowing and bumping up all of the little goodies in four-inch pots. We have a host of checker mallow (*Sidalcea malviflora*) in propagation and growing fast, along with many yerba buena (*Clinopodium douglasii*) growing to replace the gallons that we have on the floor. With the planting season underway, we are hoping for a wet winter season so come up and get your plant lists filled.

We are also planning a propagation workshop for Saturday, September 16th. Time and further details will be provided on our Facebook (Native Here Nursery) and Meetup (East Bay CNPS) pages. If anyone is interested in volunteering to help teach basic propagation techniques (sowing, transplanting and layering) please contact Theo at nativehere@ebcnps.org.

Theo Fitanides



Native Here Nursery founder Charli Danielsen welcomes Theo Fitanides as the new manager for Native Here Nursery. Photo by Janice Bray.

POINT ISABEL RESTORERS GO TO BROOKS ISLAND

Point Isabel volunteers "establish a beachhead" on Brooks Island – expand Caspian Tern nesting area

On October 22nd, in appreciation of the volunteer work done at Point Isabel over the past seven years, the East Bay Regional Park District took fourteen Point Isabel volunteers on a voyage on the Siri Queen to Brooks Island. When we came ashore Scott Possin from the District gave us an introduction to the Island's history and introduced us to the Island caretaker, Matt. Matt filled us in about his role on the Island and told us about the wildlife it supports. The fog was lifting as we took a brief tour along a trail lined with California native buckeyes, purple needle grass, roses, blackberry, sagebrush, morning glory and more to the highest point where we spotted Bird Island with its pelicans. After a picnic lunch hosted by the District, we made our way down to the Caspian Tern nesting area that is being encroached upon by masses of ice plant and trash that washes up on the beach. We set to work. Rob tackled the beach trash and the rest of the crew, including District staff, started removing the ice plant. Gudrun also found a small patch of Russian thistle that she pulled out and bagged. We cleaned a huge area, pulling out tons and tons of ice plant (or so it seemed!), working quickly since we had to catch the tide to allow us to motor back to the Richmond Marina.

That's when the unexpected happened. The Siri Queen wouldn't start. After some speculation as to whether Matt had satellite TV in his house and what he would make us for dinner, we realized we were in the company of some very

talented and resourceful frontline District staff who, together with Island caretaker Matt, calmly set about coming up with alternatives that resulted in all volunteers and staff returning safely to the Richmond marina launch site.

What an incredible day! And what an amazing group of volunteers and District staff. If all goes well, we will return at a future date to finish our work. The District does arrange occasional guided trips out to Brooks Island. Check http://www.ebparks.org/parks/brooks_island for details about when future trips are planned.



Pelicans resting on the bay, off Brooks Island, photo by Janet Kelly.



Restoration crew dealing with ice plant on Brooks Island. Photo by Gudrun Kleist.

MORE IMAGES FROM BROOKS ISLAND RESTORATION



A small island with birds on the Bay, photo by Jane Kelly. Mosses and lichens and buckeyes on Brooks Island, photos by Grudun Kleist.



Brooks Island Shanty

(To the tune of Sloop John B.)

We sailed *Siri Queen* for free
The weed workers and me
Around Brooks Island trails we did roam
Working all day
Alongside the Bay
We feel so happy
Don't wanna go home

So clean up the nesting site
Make it inviting and bright
Give the heave-ho to the piles of nasty ice plant
So much did we learn
Of the Caspian Tern
Weed warriors listen up!
It's time to go home

Lyrics by Jane, Tom, Joanne, Penny
October 22, 2013

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EBCNPS Sponsored Activities

East Bay Chapter News list
Emailed announcements of upcoming EBCNPS events
List manager—Martha Booz
mlbooz@calnatives.com

Native Here Nursery

510-549-0211
Manager—Theo Fitaniades
nativehere@ebcnps.org

Sales—Margot Cunningham
bunchgrassmarg@gmail.com

Plant Fair

Steve Toby Chair
510-236-1063
stevetoby@comcast.net

Restoration

Huckleberry Regional Preserve

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janetgawthrop47@gmail.com

Point Isabel

Tom and Jane Kelly, leaders
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510-684-6484 (c)
kyotousa@sbcglobal.net

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Heath Bartosh, leader
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hbartosh@nomadecology.com

John Muir NHS (Martinez)

Elaine Jackson, leader
925-372-0687
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Walnut Creek

Lesley Hunt, leader
925-937-6791
ldhunt@astound.net

Membership Application and Renewal Form

Name _____

Address _____

Zip _____ Telephone _____

Email_____

I wish to affiliate with:

East Bay Chapter (Alameda and Contra Costa Counties)

Other _____

Membership category:

Individual, \$45

Family, Library, Group or International, \$75

Plant lover, \$100

Patron, \$300

Benefactor, \$600

Mariposa Lily, \$1500

Limited Income or student, \$25.00

Other _____

Mail application and check to: California Native Plant Society, 2707 K Street, Suite 1,
Sacramento CA 95816